

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-09 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 STR-08

TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAL-01 OMB-01 SS-14 NSC-10 L-03

H-02 PRS-01 PA-03 USIA-12 AGR-20 GAC-01 NEA-10 EA-11

RSR-01 /190 W

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R 201540 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6712

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6712

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E. O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EGEN EC DA UK

SUBJ: JOHN DAVIES AND GEORGE THOMSON VISITS TO COPENHAGEN

1. DURING WEEK OF MARCH 12, BOTH UK MARKETS MINISTER JOHN DAVIES AND EC COMMISSIONER FOR REGIONAL POLICIES GEORGE THOMSON VISITED COPENHAGEN, OVERLAPPING IN PART. FONOFF DEBRIEFING PROVIDED A FEW INTERESTING POINTS REGARDING EXTENT OF COOPERATION BETWEEN UK AND DENMARK AS NEW EC MEMBERS (DAVIES TALKS) AND DANISH THINKING ON EC REGIONAL POLICIES (THOMSON TALKS).

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2. DAVIES VISIT WAS PRINCIPALLY CEREMONIAL. WE UNDERSTAND IT IS PART OF A GRAND TOUR OF ALL EC CAPITALS. DANES TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO "STRONGLY" CRITICIZE BRITISH FOR FAILING TO SHOW PROPER EC SPIRIT BY NOT COOPERATING IN COMMON CURRENCY FLOAT. THEY NOTED THAT DENMARK IS IN A SIMILARLY WEAK BALANCE OF PAYMENTS POSITION, BUT STILL WENT ALONG WITH THE FLOAT. DAVIES SAID BRITAIN WOULD EVENTUALLY BE WILLING TO JOIN THE OTHERS; BUT, FOR THE TIME BEING, THEY MUST AVOID ALL STEPS WHICH COULD INCREASE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON BRITAIN OF EC ENTRY. THIS REGARD, THEY PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT FOOD PRICES AND WOULD RECOMMEND REDUCTION IN PRICES OF CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, PRIMARILY BUTTER AND GRAIN. DANES DID NOT TAKE TO KINDLY TO LATTER COMMENT.

3. PARTICULARLY IN TALKS WITH HIS DANISH COUNTERPART, FOREIGN ECONOMICS MINISTER NORGAARD, DAVIES UNDERLINED HIS CONCERN ABOUT ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEXITIES OF EC OPERATIONS AND SUGGESTED THAT THE NEW MEMBERS MIGHT COOPERATE TO PROVIDE "NEW BROOM" TO SWEEP OUT COBWEBS OF ESTABLISHED INEFFICIENCIES. DANES AGREED THEY EQUALLY FRUSTRATED BUT, ACCORDING TO FONOFF SOURCE, NO SPECIFIC ACTIONS WERE FORMULATED.

4. IN THOMSON TALKS, DANES WERE INTERESTED IN MAKING CLEAR THAT THEY WANT A PIECE OF THE PIE ONCE EC REGIONAL ASSISTANCE POLICIES ARE FORMULATED. THEY PARTICULARLY CITED GREENLAND AS REQUIRING ASSISTANCE. THOMSON REPORTEDLY AGREED THAT THE REQUEST WAS REASONABLE AND INDICATED HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT GREENLAND LATER IN THE YEAR. FAROE ISLANDS WERE ALSO DISCUSSED AS POSSIBLE BENEFICIARIES, BUT TIMING WAS UNFORTUNATE SINCE THE FAROESE LOCAL GOVT HAD JUST RECOMMENDED TO THE FAROESE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY THAT THE ISLAND NOT JOIN THE EC UNTIL AND UNLESS THEIR NOW EXPANDED FISHING CONCERNS WERE SATISFIED. (FAROEES ARE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS AND, IN DANISH-EC AGREEMENT, WERE GIVEN THREE YEARS TO DECIDE ON EC MEMBERSHIP.) THOMSON NOTED THAT FAROEES OBVIOUSLY NOT ELIGIBLE FOR REGIONAL AID UNLESS THEY JOIN EC. DANES INDICATED THEY MAY USE THIS AS BAIT TO GET FAROESE BACK IN LINE.

DECON 20 MARCH 1974
DUNNIGAN

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